

FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: August 8, 2013

Agenda Item: Scoping for 2014-2015 Season Setting

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Informational

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 20 minutes

Background

Hunting season structures for deer, elk, antelope, moose, sheep, goat, black bear, mountain lion, bison, migratory birds, and upland birds have generally been adopted for two-year intervals (biennium). While regional and other FWP staff routinely engage the public throughout the year, the formal season setting process has historically started with the public introduction of “Tentative” proposals in December of odd years. Opportunity for public comment and public introduction of alternative proposals has been available at this December meeting. Tentative adoptions from this same December meeting are then made available for public comment through most of January. This includes more than 40 meetings, hearings, and open houses across the state. Final proposals and adoptions take place in February so that regulation booklets may be available for spring bear and turkey seasons and nonresident deer and elk license application deadlines.

The 2008–2009 biennial season-setting process generated considerable public comment to FWP and the Commission. One recurring criticism of the existing process was it lacked a public participation opportunity prior to tentative proposals being framed by FWP. In response, FWP inserted an additional scoping step into the 2010–2011 season-setting process, and did the same for the 2012 – 2013 season setting process. FWP will also conduct scoping prior to the upcoming 2014-15 season setting process. Taking place during summer and early fall prior to the December meeting, this scoping effort includes:

- 1) two additional F&W Commission agenda discussions in August and October;
- 2) a public comment window in August-September; and
- 3) one open house in each administrative region.

Scoping will be initiated on Aug. 9 and concluded Sept. 6. Each of the seven regions will hold a public scoping meeting. The dates for those meetings have not been set. The public will be notified through news releases and content on the FWP website and comments will be gathered in a web-based survey and at regional scoping meetings.

Public Involvement Process & Results

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide additional opportunity for the F&W Commission to provide input directly and early to FWP on process or specific content of the upcoming biennial season setting process.